



## Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan

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### For Immediate Release

#### MEDIA ADVISORY

#### Keep Kids In School and Out Of the Wayne County Courtrooms

- Contact:** Zenell Brown, Court Administrator  
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- What:** Judge Frank S. Szymanski recognizes Principal John Tafelski of Crestwood High School at a Dearborn Heights' School Board meeting for successfully implementing programs to keep their students in school.
- When:** February 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
- Where:** Crestwood High School  
1501 N. Beech Daly Rd., Dearborn Heights, MI 48127
- Why:** Judge Frank S. Szymanski founded KKIS, a platform that advocates for keeping children in school and out of our courtrooms

Wayne County, MI - - The Wayne County Keeping Kids in School Project will join Dearborn Heights' School Board meeting to acknowledge the forward thinking of Principal John Tafelski of Crestwood High School and his efforts to keep his students in the classroom.

The costs of school suspensions are excessive and some school districts are evaluating their policies regarding suspensions, expulsions, and truancy. Wayne County can no longer afford to suspend students for truancy or minor infractions because we need them in school, not out of school. Up to 44% of juvenile crime occurs during the school day.

Principal Tafelski of Crestwood High School implemented changes in the disciplinary code to build a community that encourage student attendance and engagement. The support of teachers and staff at Crestwood High School only has lowered the offenses that warrant suspension by 50%. Most schools have implemented zero tolerance policies and have upwards of 40 suspendable offenses. Crestwood is publicly releasing measureable results with its changed approach. Principal Tafelski has adopted policies, which include alternatives to school suspensions and have resulted in improved academic performance.

Judge Frank S. Szymanski believes that children are our greatest assets. He applauds the answers to discipline issues that don't involve suspensions. Restorative practices in which students and staff address issues in a spirit of mutual respect have been successful in repairing harm and improving relationships and empowering students by teaching them to address issues face to face.

Judge Frank S. Szymanski invites inquiries from the media and will hold a press conference on Monday, February 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., Crestwood High School located at 1501 N. Beech Daly Rd., Dearborn Heights, MI 48127.